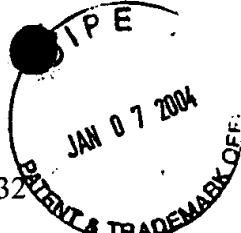


Docket No.: 50212-132



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

: Customer Number: 20277

#20) IDS w/atts
2-3-04

Tetsufumi TSUZAKI, et al.

: Confirmation Number: 7978

Serial No.: 09/667,576

: Group Art Unit: 3663

Filed: September 22, 2000

: Examiner: S. Cunningham

For: OPTICAL AMPLIFIER AND OPTICAL AMPLIFICATION METHOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

RECEIVED

Mail Stop Information Disclosure
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

JAN 12 2004

GROUP 3b00

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

Each non-English language reference was first cited in a corresponding foreign application search report or office action and its relevance discussed therein. A copy of the

foreign search report or office action, together with an English language version thereof, is attached for the Examiner's information.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

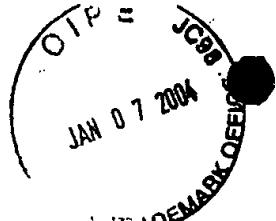
Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY



Arthur J. Steiner
Registration No. 26,106

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
(202) 756-8000 AJS:prg
Facsimile: (202) 756-8087
Date: January 7, 2004



SHEET 1 OF 1

***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.
1. Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2. A

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.